

**To:** R9\_WTR\_MANAGERS[R9\_WTR\_MANAGERS@epa.gov]  
**From:** Amato, Paul  
**Sent:** Tue 2/16/2016 2:33:10 PM  
**Subject:** Weekly Reminder (week ending Feb 19)

Hello WD Managers:

Please submit items for the Weekly via EMAIL to me by no later than **noon - tomorrow (Wednesday), February 17th**. Be sure to include any significant items for the next couple of weeks. In addition, include relevant dates for the items submitted, along with POCs.

Please let me know if you have nothing for the Weekly.

Last week's Weekly is provided below for reference.

Thanks,

Paul

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## **WEEKLY REPORT**

### **Region 9**

### **Environmental Protection Agency**

**Week Ending February 12, 2016**

### **Water Division**

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#### **Significant Items from Last Week (February 8 - 12)**

**California Requests Expansion of Aquifer Exemptions:** On February 8th, the CA Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) submitted to Region 9 a request to expand the boundaries of an existing aquifer exemption within the Arroyo Grande oil field in San Luis Obispo County. The package from DOGGR, with State Board concurrence, is the first of about 50 such requests that we expect the state to submit for new and expanded aquifer exemptions. These exemption requests, when approved, would allow for the continued injection of fluids for enhanced oil recovery and waste water disposal and are a key element of the state's efforts to return their Class II Underground Injection Control program into compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. (Albright, 2-3971)

#### **Significant Items for This Week (February 16 – 19. February 15 is a Holiday)**

None

#### **Significant Items for Next 2-3 Weeks (next few weeks)**

None

## **Travel, Training, Public/National Meetings and Speaking Engagements**

**Stormwater Permit Engagement at Congressional Forum:** On February 16, David Smith will join state and local representatives in speaking at a forum organized by Representative Napolitano in Monrovia to explore issues that arise in the implementation of NPDES municipal stormwater permits in Southern California. Smith will discuss basic regulatory requirements and financial challenges communities face in implementing permits, and finance opportunities. (Smith 2-3464)

**EPA Convenes Workshop to Improve California's Source Water Protection:** We are convening a source water protection workshop on March 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in Sacramento along with the State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water. The workshop will include discussions on current efforts to protect sources of drinking water and will develop an action plan of next steps. This is a significant step as the State Board's drinking water program has lagged in developing a proactive program to prevent contamination of drinking water sources. (Li, 2-3560 & Leon-Guerrero, 2-3444)

**Developing Communication and Collaboration in Water Division:** On February 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, 35 Water Division staff and managers participated in an engaging training course focusing on communication and collaboration skills necessary for effective leadership. Taught by Stephen Groner, the course was similar to one provided during the recent Environmental Leadership Development Program. Participants plan to explore opportunities to practice skills taught and potential barriers to their use. (Smith 2-3464)

## **Significant Items in 30-60 Days**

None

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## **Grant Announcements**

**Region 9 Coordinating National Competition for Tribal Non-Point Source Grants:** EPA has initiated the review process for the national CWA 319 tribal competitive non-point source pollution grant program. Nationally, 49 tribes applied for funding under the request for proposals; maximum grant awards are up to \$100,000 and approximately \$2.5 million is available for this grant program. Eligible activities include the

development of watershed-based plans and on-the-ground efforts that will solve non-point source impairments. Region 9 is coordinating the national competition this year; project selection will be completed by April 30th. (Kahan, 2-3143)

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### **Legislative Engagement**

### **Other Information**

**Division Director Schedule (February 16 – 19. February 15 is a Holiday):** Tomás Torres will be in all week.